

July 2004 Severe Storms

Wood and Vegetative Debris

Storage and Disposal Recommendations

The Kentucky Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet (EPPC) is requiring that responsible parties provide prior notification on the **proposed** location(s) for the storage and/or burning of storm debris. EPPC staff are to complete on-site inspections of the proposed sites with the appropriate parties to determine if the site(s) meets the following recommendations. EPPC will grant approval for storing (staging) and/or burning activities on a **case-by-case basis**. EPPC retains the right to require immediate cessation of any activity that results in impact to human health or the environment. These approvals and related activities are being granted on a **temporary** basis by EPPC to address the excessive amount of storm debris resulting from the recent storms that have impacted Kentucky. These approvals and related activities apply only to the disposal of storm debris.

- **Staging and Burn Areas**
 - ✓ **must** be located out of floodplains
 - ✓ located away from major drainage channels and storm drains
 - ✓ located away from sinkholes or associated drainages
 - ✓ if burning is to occur at the staging area, its location should be as far away from residences as situations allow.
 - ✓ Adequate fire lanes must be maintained to allow fire/emergency vehicles and heavy equipment to control any fires.
 - ✓ Fires can start from spontaneous combustion if moist debris is stored for prolonged periods and ambient air temperatures increase. It is suggested that the height of storage piles not exceed 10 feet to minimize this problem.
 - ✓ Generally, storage piles or burn piles should be small enough to allow emergency vehicles and heavy equipment to easily and quickly pull them apart to put out a fire.
- **Burning is to be done in accordance with current regulations with the following specifications:**
 - ✓ No tires, plastics, or other prohibitive material is to be burned, only storm debris.
 - ✓ **Minimal** amounts of accelerants (≤ 5 gallons) are to be used to start fires. Kerosene or #2 diesel fuel is suggested.
 - ✓ Burning is to occur only when prevailing winds direct the smoke away from residences, businesses, cities, etc. If residents, businesses, etc. are impacted by smoke because of changes in prevailing wind direction, the burn should be put out immediately and operations cease. To avoid a recurrence of complaints, the location of the burning activity must then be moved to an alternative location that is more suitable for burning.
 - ✓ All burns should be **continuously** monitored; it is suggested that local fire Department staff be assigned this duty.
 - ✓ No fire is to be started within 150 feet of a forest or brush land. No burning should be done when weather conditions meet the red flag criteria as defined by the Division of Forestry. For current conditions, please access the Division of Forestry website at: [Wildland Fire Situation Report](#)
 - ✓ It is recommended that when winds reach 5 mph, that responsible personnel increase monitoring. Fires should be immediately put out if it appears that wind conditions may increase the risk of fires spreading to adjacent areas.
 - ✓ Size of burn piles should be small to allow complete control of the fire and to allow quick cessation of the burn.

- ✓ Burn operations must be located an adequate distance away from the main debris storage piles to avoid the fire spreading to the main piles.
 - ✓ Clear an adequate firebreak around the burn pile by removing all vegetation and exposing the soil for a **minimum** width of five feet completely around the pile. Wider firebreaks will be necessary for larger piles of debris.
 - ✓ **Do not burn debris under overhead utilities or over utilities that are buried.** The heat may damage even the buried utilities.
 - ✓ **Do not** burn debris under existing trees or other overhead material that may catch on fire or be damaged from the heat of the fire.
- **Restoration of Site-after disposal of debris is completed the storage and/or burn sites need to be restored.**
 - ✓ When preparing to dispose of ash, contact the Division of Waste Management regional office that covers the appropriate county.
 - ✓ All burn pits, etc. excavated for burning should be re-filled with appropriate fill material and covered with adequate top soil.
 - ✓ Areas with exposed soil should be re-seeded with adequate amount of appropriate seed mixtures.
 - ✓ Straw mulch, etc. should be added as a temporary cover to improve germination success of seed and control erosion.
 - ✓ If soil is being washed into nearby storm drains, use **properly** installed hay bales or silt fence to minimize erosion and maintain soil/silt on site.